

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS. By G. A. Maw, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 214, 15s.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1964.

This small book replaces the popular "Aids to Organic Chemistry" by the same author. The thirty-eight chapters cover structural isomerism and stereoisomerism, the general properties of the main groups of organic compounds and a brief description of important heterocyclic and polycyclic substances.

The general lay-out is excellent and although the information is naturally condensed the text is pleasing to read. The chemical equations and structural formula are very clearly presented and there is an excellent index.

This textbook should be helpful to students of elementary organic chemistry, as an aid to revision. It should also be of considerable value to medical graduates who may wish to obtain information concerning the formula and properties of common organic compounds.

S. G. W.

INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY. By J. J. Lewis. Third Edition. (Pp. xvi+1048, figs. 199. 63s.). Edinburgh and London: E. S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

This book now appears in its third edition only four years after its initial publication. This alone is proof enough of its continuing success and popularity. In addition, it provides a unique opportunity for up-to-date revision of a subject, whose frontiers are constantly and relentlessly advancing. This latter fact is reflected in the extension of the book by over 100 pages—a little disappointing perhaps for those who already find overwhelming demands on their reading time.

It needs to be emphasized that this is not a textbook of materia medica or therapeutics, nor was it intended to be. The author sets out rather to present what is known about the site, mode of action, type of action and chemical structure-action relationships. This is done in a way which is both well set out and easy to read. Two new features in this edition are particularly welcome: a new chapter appears on 'Drugs used in the treatment of Hypertension', a subject undergoing change and often resulting in some confusion as a consequence; and the inclusion of short bibliographies at the endings of chapters, and in some cases, of sections.

For the medical student, of course, a textbook with more emphasis on therapeutics must be the priority; but in this age, when unnecessary empiricism is frowned upon, every student of medicine, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, should have access to such a book for reference purposes, if he is to have a mature understanding of the drugs which he uses. Used in such a fashion, its size is less formidable and its usefulness ensured.

D. G. McD.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHIATRY. By Max Valentine. (Pp. viii+320, 24s.). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1965.

A SLIGHT increase in price, some additional references and minor alterations in the text characterise this third edition of Dr. Valentine's "Introduction to Psychiatry." The format of the book is essentially the same. Involutional psychosis is used as a synonym for involutional melancholia, which is still dealt with separately without clear reference to the arguments against the disorder being regarded as a separate entity. Newer treatments are mentioned, such as the use of conditioning techniques in enuresis. The list of drugs recommended for the treatment of depression has been revised. In the section on admission to hospital, there is no reference to the Northern Ireland Mental Health Act, 1961, although it differs in certain important respects from its English, Scottish and Eire counterparts.

The general practitioner who is not familiar with the earlier editions of this book will find it interesting.

J.G.G.